

The Chinese Ecological Philosophy and Its Impact on American Culture - Start with Kung Fu Panda

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Abstract Recently we can see more and more elements from the traditional Chinese culture appear in Hollywood movies as well as television such as Kung Fu Panda. I believe some people think those elements are "not very Chinese", but the movie still got some key essence of the Chinese traditional, such as "Tao", "harmony between man and nature", etc.. This paper analyses the Chinese ecological and cultural theory reflected in American film and television, and considers that Chinese culture has a great influence on American society. In the same time we remind people to pay attention to this kind of influence, and reappraise the promotion of China's soft power in the international status.

Keywords Chinese Ecological Culture, Influence, Soft Power

1. Introduction

On the ecological culture concept, the research of ecological culture in western started early and more mature, but most of them focused on their own ecological culture and its derivatives, hardly have study pay attention to the ecological cultural characteristics of modern Chinese literature. In this academic field, we know only few people, like famous German scholar W. Kubin (Wolfgang Kubin), published in 1985, the *DERDURCH-SICHTIGEBERG - die Entwicklung der Naturanschauung derchinesischen Literatur* "(empty mountain - view of nature in Chinese literature development), and the study of the Chinese modern ecological view of the impact of Japanese literature almost blank.

In China's academic circles, especially to mention the Professor Lu Shuyuan^[2] from Soochow University, around the theme of this writing a lot of books, such as "*ecological literature and art*"^[12], "*eco criticism of space*", "*nature and humanity*", "*spiritual watch*" and so on. His thesis "*literature and art and the ecological era*", *the spirit and*

the ecological system ", "*into the field of ecology of literature and art* ", "*hundred years omissions, written in the history of Chinese literature view of ecology* ", "*The spirit of Chinese characters "wind" semantic field and ecological culture of ancient China* ", his research for the Chinese contemporary ecological criticized foundation.

When we organize the ecological culture of the traditional Chinese culture, and contact Chinese traditional culture with the Chinese agriculture-oriented ideological, we will find the traditional Chinese culture has the universal significance. It is with the broad mind and the deep sense of history beyond the time and condition, forming the thesis and point of view based on universe and take life as the ultimate concern. It is built in the farming culture, natural economy on the basis of combination of agriculture and family handicraft industry, This is not only reflected in the pastoral poetry, but also in Chinese myths and legends, Laozi and Zhuangzi aesthetics thought, explained it very ecological culture; traditional ecological culture of modern society have all sorts of diffraction. These include philosophy, ethics, politics, law, and aesthetics and so on. Ecological aesthetics to contemporary ecological philosophy idea of "the unity of heaven and man", "sounds of nature" "good penmanship" concept enjoys popular support. I regard natural ecology, social ecology and spiritual ecology as organic integrity, which is still a lot of traditional concepts in contemporary China, like the Laozi, Zhuangzi advocated the harmony between man and nature, the harmony between man and nature, nature, education counsellor Germany etc.

2. Discussion and Conclusion

As example, Kung Fu Panda made by the Dream Works and was a big hit in the world. The first drama had 632 million of its box office. And the second drama had about 600 million of its box office.

Chinese culture as this movie's mean clue, influences the world a lot. As soon as the movie issued, Some Chinese web friends satisfied and say, "Before Chinese cultures come in our country. The Dream Works has spread the

Chinese culture all over the world, and send it to the Chinese market.

But some netizens were not satisfied and said : “ 2008 sees that this great movie which is about a Chinese panda, is made by American rather than Chinese!”

As far as I'm concerned that Kung Fu Panda1、 2 on hot line is a good phenomenon. If we set the point that Chinese are lacked of creativity aside, we can find out that ecological philosophy has influence America deeply.

As a reference, in 2014 the author use Questionnaire survey methods did research in Chinese university which is in project 985 and project 211 (a total of 116), the survey of contemporary Chinese students(who already saw the Kung Fu panda movie)' attitude about the Chinese element in Anglo-American drama, the research including a total of 25000 questionnaires, 19948 electrical questionnaires, 5000 valid paper questionnaires, 4983 valid questionnaires, Overall valid questionnaires reached 99.72%.

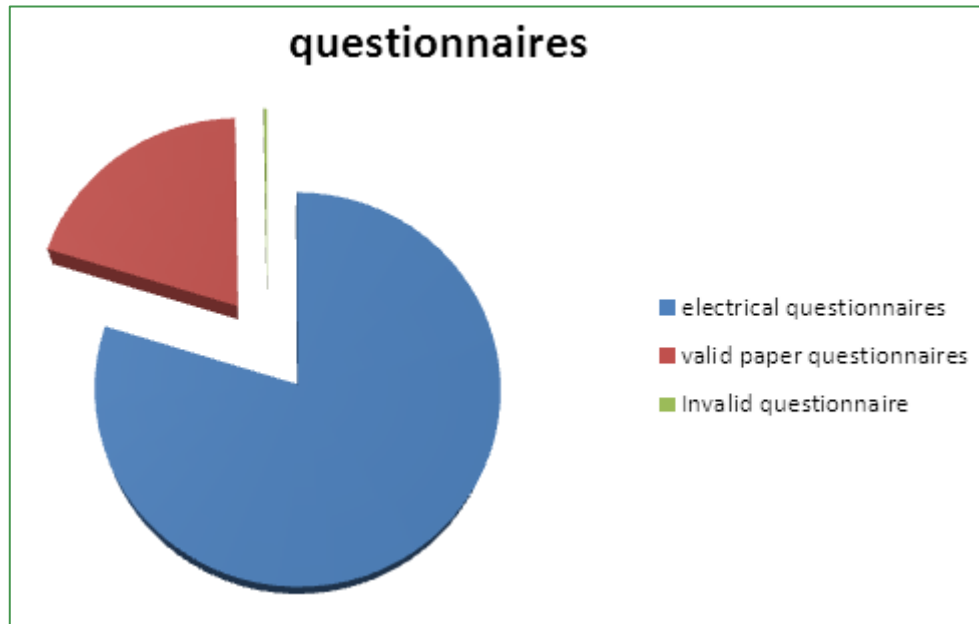


Figure 1. questionnaires

The first question is "do you think the philosophical thinking deep down the *Kung Fu Panda 1, 2* belong to China?
A.100%B. very much C. Little part D. not at all."

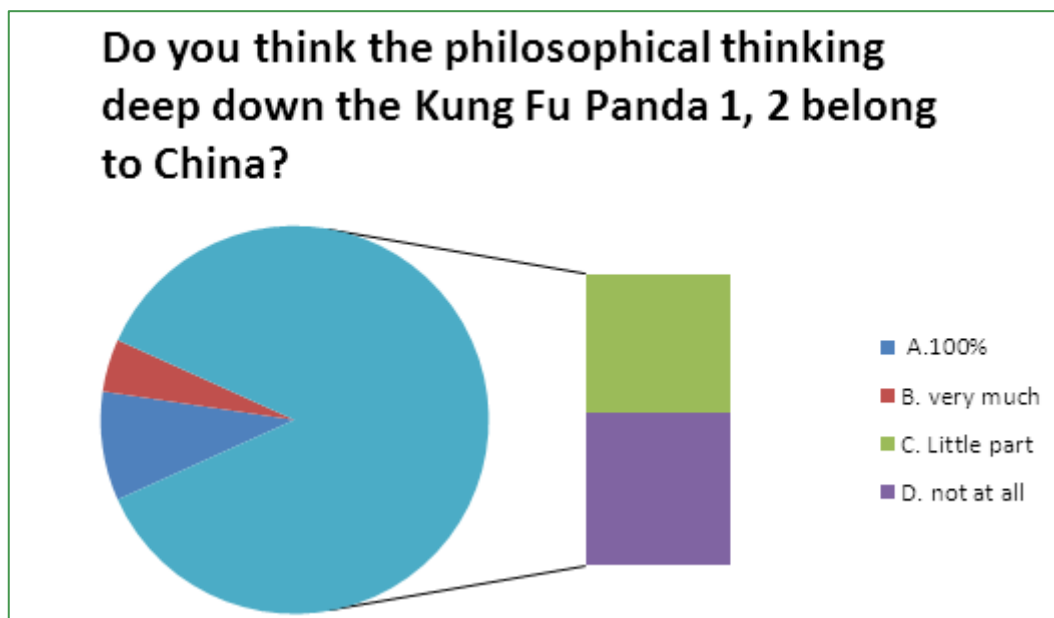


Figure 2. Do you think the philosophical thinking deep down the Kung Fu Panda 1, 2 belong to China?

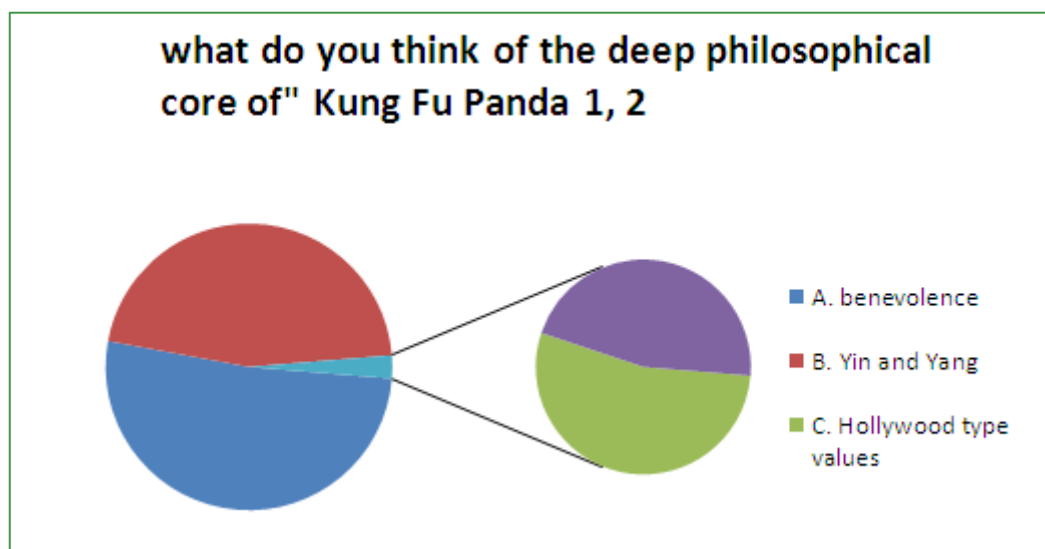


Figure 3. what do you think of the deep philosophical core of " Kung Fu Panda 1, 2

The vast majority of young people think in "Kung Fu Panda" Aibo is one dressed in Chinese culture skin, American super hero, and Chinese Internet users of the method of same orientation. In China the biggest critic website, a prominent commentator, wrote: "Kung Fu Panda", it is revealed the Chinese culture is as packaging combined with Western kernel to become a kind of cultural products being popular all around the world. What is the outer package of Chinese culture? That is the Chinese background, architecture, music, five boxing, dragon totem, firecrackers, noodles, steamed buns, including, of course, a panda as the protagonist and martial arts as a selling point of the set itself in the film. And what is the West's core? That is the whole process of hero in the story from the birth to success which is completely western values. We notice that Panda Po is a very ordinary person, but surprising become candidates for the dragon warrior, although he really produced in a ceremony of the election. That is to say, although he meant to be a hero, but in the process will also show the rules of equality. This is a classic paradox of the West logic, advocating everyone has the opportunity to become a hero, but the hero is often doomed. Classical Chinese martial arts are not this advocating equality and justice idea. In China is not everyone can become a hero, blood relationship default everything before it even started.

When we asked what do you think of the deep philosophical core of "Kung Fu Panda 1, 2"? A. benevolence B. Yin and Yang C. Hollywood type values D. others, but we got a totally different answer this time ,most people choose A or B .

This shows that the vast majority of high IQ youth groups in china see the Chinese philosophy on the impact of American culture from the "Kung Fu Panda 1, 2".

Here we can see the contradiction, although the youth groups can't really identify with the opinion that Kung Fu

Panda 1, 2 fully express the Chinese traditional culture , but they are still keen to find a Kung Fu Panda 1, 2 of China's ecological culture.

I firmly believe that the birth of *Kung Fu Panda 1, 2*, to a great extent, the Chinese philosophy has a certain impact on American culture. The reasons are as follows:

Firstly, Jeffery - Katzenberg, the DreamWorks Animation Company CEO, led a team of 30 Hollywood's elite went to china to collect the folk customs, but there is no one who is Chinese or have Chinese background. we all know that only few days of the collection of folk customs is not enough to help you to understand a country's culture heritage, especially as a big as China. No one of Kung Fu Panda team has belonged to China mainland. In fact, there are little overseas Chinese in the team. This great work is finished by all foreigners. It reflects that foreigners have a deep understanding of Chinese ecological

Secondly, we access that Kung Fu Panda is not a professional because of its outward Chinese element such as Chinese Ink and Wash Landscape, temple fair, noodles, Kung Fu and Acupuncture but the unique Chinese ecological philosophy lied in this movie.

If we believe that Kung Fu Panda 1 shows a part of "zen" that everyone should believe themselves and they will become the great person, Kung Fu Panda 2 shows this spirit extremely. For example, Panda ABao at first understands the secret of tai chi yin and yang, then knows the "harmony between human being and nature". Furthermore, this movie gives us a lesson that "c". Every detail shows the ecological philosophy perfectly. Chinese cultures were neither only showed by the panda's Kung Fu, nor the Hollywood theme. But we can even say Kung Fu Panda knows the Chinese culture perfectly.

Chinese culture cannot tell the meaning of tai chi yin and yang. To be specific, Yin and Yang is opposite, but Yin is

connected with Yang. America express their understanding of the Chinese culture through this panda.

We can divide "harmony between human being and nature" into two parts. First part is "common between human and nature". Universe is a huge object rather than human. On the other hand," universe is connected with human being. It means that human and nature have interconnected relation with each other. Lao Zi says human follows the earth, while earth follows the universe, the universe follows Tao, while Tao follows the nature. America knows the spirit of Lao Zi evidently. There is a scene in this movie that A Bao is inspired by Tai ji, a drop of water which stands nature jumps around A Bao. This scene shows the harmony between human and nature. Finally, A Bao send the water to nature, we can see the love for humanity from A Bao. As soon as A Bao reaches the state that" harmony between human and nature which is put forward by Dong Zhongshu, he shows the state of "harmony between human being and nature". A Bao one through taiji.

All along, in the western, people get used to conquer the nature with the highly developed science and technology, which is different from the Chinese ecological philosophy. Oriental sages always told us, the human race is a part of the universe; man and nature are closely linked with the development of.

From this point of view, this movie *Kung Fu Panda* spirit just is and the western traditional philosophy is inconsistent, not with the natural opposition but think about how to integrate into the natural. In the author's opinion, thus it can be seen that Kung Fu Panda 1 and 2 of the global hit, which Kung Fu Panda Kung Fu Panda P/DW (producer) \$631.7 (total worldwide box office) \$215.4 (the North American box office) 34.1% (the North American box office as percentage of \$416.3 overseas box office 65.9% (overseas box office proportion) 2008 (year); Kung Fu Panda 2 is \$66569228 at the box office in the world, including the North American box office accounted for 32.3% (overseas box office proportion).

To be so high at the box office is highly affirmed, from the side, the Chinese philosophy of ecological thinking in the process of spreading to the world, won the public recognition and affirmation.

Actually, western people always plan to occupy the nature by advanced science and technology, which is different from Chinese ecological philosophy. Chinese wise man express that human being is just a part of universe, and human is linked to the nature. From this point, the spirit of Kung Fu Panda is different from western philosophy. As far as I'm concerned, Kung Fu Panda is welcomed by the people all over the world, we can believe that ecological philosophy is accepted by the world.

3. Results

Someone maybe say, Kung Fu Panda cannot prove this

phenomenon. It happens that there is a similar case, a number of American movies include the Chinese ecological philosophy. For example," Criminal Mind", which wins the Emmy Awards three times. In the 12 set, says that" Deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage. This sentence can date back to "Moral Classics" by Lao Zi. Here I can give another example" The closer", a lady is murdered, her husband said to policemen he is the murderer. However, his father was the truly murderer. The lady's husband did all this in order to protect his father. The leading lady explained that this is the filial piety in China, That is to say, it is the Ethics. China has toleration and concealment system from ancient times.

KungFu panda got huge success all around the world, at 2015 Nicolas Cage and Chinese Famous Chinese actress Liu Yifei also join a movie named *Outcast*, which include lot of Chinese elements and history ,but they just face box office waterloo , people think this movie is still a standard Hollywood movie ,like foreign cook cooked Chinese food turns out neither this species nor that class.

From the resistance against nature and the conquest of nature, to the idea that see nature and human as a whole, which was highly recommended is the traditional Chinese Culture. And this idea can be found in different fields. For example, the highly appreciated German architect, Professor Thomas Herzog said that ecological construction is not simply Green and Sunshine. The prime target is to save energy, resource and protect the environment. That is to say, construction cannot destroy nature.

The reason why the thought changes is flexible. For example, the environment has been deeply damaged during the recent years, plenty of white garbage, vehicle exhaust, greenhouse effect, light pollution and other damages of the eco-system. These raised people's awareness to keep the balance of ecology. But the influence of Chinese traditional ecological philosophy is strong and powerful. No one can ignore the influence of it.

In 1988, 75 Nobel Prizes was issued in a joint declaration in Paris. Appeal to the whole world in twenty-first Century "is essential to human survival wisdom Confucius two thousand years ago.

It's a pity that in the USA, many people believe in China threat theory, even China is invincible, they seem to have deep-rooted fear of China. From the speech of the American Government towards the Diaoyu Island incident (The State Department declares that the Treaty of Security and Safeguard Between Japan and United States appeals to Diaoyu Island), to early American TV series deliberately distort the image of China. For example, Boston Laws was popular among Chinese Net Friends. But in its last season, it slandered China and Chinese subtitle translation groups all refused to translate. Till the year 2012, the Federal Government still believed in these theories. Under its misleading, the United States declared that the Chinese Confucius Institute is illegal in America. And they announced that all Chinese Confucius must get

authentication to launch teaching. The also announced that all Chinese teachers who had J-1 visa must leave America before June 30s, the Federal Government would not renew their visas.

However, Chinese ecological philosophy theory has influenced the Whole American Society and Americans, regardless of the guidance of public opinion. Professor Lee said in 1997, during the interview between Prof Lee and the teaching & research office of Philosophy of Wuhan university: in the past, Chinese Philosophy was not taught widely. But during the last ten years, courses of Chinese Philosophy are improving more and more, also students became more and more interested in Chinese Philosophy. Nearly each University in the USA sets up courses involves Chinese Philosophy. This indicates that the Status of Chinese Philosophy is rising, and the right to speak is increasing in the world's philosophy forum.

The strong attitude of the US Government cannot change American citizen's will. For example the Chinese Confucius Institute Incident, After the declaration May 17th 2012 of the US government, the object voice came from the American People. Headmasters of majority universities, principals of school districts, teachers and students show their strong disagreement. Maybe the American Cultural Persons are fond of politics, but obviously they have more containment towards different cultures, and they enjoy promoting the cultural exchange. The May 17th announcement perceptibly pasted a label of exclusiveness upon the Confucius Institute, and directed the spearhead towards the teachers of Confucius. These undoubtedly ignore the fact that the Confucius Institutes will have a foundation after 8 years, and the affection of Confucius Culture and Chinese Culture among the American people

In a word, many details show that no matter how American government controls the direction of public opinion, Chinese ecological philosophy has already influenced American culture and America deeply. Furthermore, it is a fact that Chinese ecological philosophy brings its superiority into full play in the world. At present, we can find more and more Chinese culture all around the world ,deep inside everyone's life , chairman Xi's government published many policy to encourage people introduce the Chinese culture not only inside but outside ,lot of achievement have been made by scholars in soft power ,people still disseminate and introduce the traditional culture in an original way ,we should use a new way to value the Chinese culture and Chinese soft power .

Appendix

1 . Being a civilized society to modern times in China, it is witnessed economic changes, dynasty changes and foreign culture's impact. But generally speaking, the local agricultural system remained in its root, recently a new theory has found that the Chinese Culture is the root, while the Foreign Cultures are the branches. Chinese Culture is

inveteracy in the long history.

It seems common that the native culture is the root while the foreign cultures are the branches. But in China compared foreign cultures, the native culture has stronger sense of identity. The reason is that Chinese Culture has lasted for thousand years and it had never broken by outside cultural impact. When it contacts with other cultures, it will stay what it was and won't be totally changed so that the culture can lasted. Some specialists summarize the root as feudal ethics and five virtues, which is too superficial. They don't reach the deep inside, As a matter of fact the root here consists of great humanity and is cored with ecological philosophy.

Chinese ecological culture has a profound influence, Scholars seemed to pay more attention to the influence to Asian culture for a long time. However, they overlook the influence to the western big countries such as America, especially in this time when people command the excellent media mean and the world become a intact gradually.

Chinese traditional culture has a universal meaning, rely on its broadmind and deep history. Chinese traditional culture overstepped times and condition, forming the proposition and perspective about caring the universe and life. Chinese traditional culture has a system which is based on natural economy i.e. agricultural civilization, family farming is connected with handicraft industry. So, it has an obvious ecological philosophy trait. Recently, ecological philosophy is on the go in academic circles, it covers many aspect such as; philosophy, morals, politics and aesthetics. For example," harmony between human and nature", "sound of nature" and "Dragons and snakes follow one's writing brush.

From China being a civilization society to modern times, it witnessed economic changes, dynasty changes, foreign cultures' impact, but generally speaking, the local agricultural culture system remained its root, till recent years, a new theory said the Chinese Culture is the root while the Foreign Culture is the branches. Chinese Culture is inveteracy in the long history.

2. Chinese Universities - Project 211 and Project 985

Project 211 is a project of National Key University and college initiated in 1995 by the Ministry of Education of the China, with the intent of raising the research standards of high-level universities and cultivating strategies for socio-economic development. During the first phase of the project, from 1996 to 2000, approximately US\$2.2 billion was distributed.

China today has more than 117 institutions of higher education (about 6 percent) designated as 211 Project institutions for having met certain scientific, technical, and human resources standards and offer advanced degree programs). Project 211 schools take on the responsibility of training four-fifths of doctoral students, two-thirds of graduate students, half of students from abroad and one-third of undergraduates. They offer 85% of the state's key subjects, hold 96 percent of the state's key laboratories,

and utilize 70% of scientific research funding

The name "Project 211" comes from an abbreviation of the 21st century and 100 – the approximate number of participating universities.

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